

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 6, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE NUMBER OF CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA
HAS DIMINISHED BY ABOUT 25 PERCENT. DO YOU HAVE ANY
CONFIRMATION OF THIS?

A: THAT DOESN'T CONFORM WITH ANY INFORMATION WE HAVE.

Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT NUMBER YOU HAVE FOR CUBANS?

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A: I DON'T HAVE A CURRENT NUMBER, BUT I CAN ONLY SAY,
FRANKLY, THAT ON THE QUESTION OF -- I THINK THE GENERAL
THESIS IS THAT CUBA HAS "CUT ITS FORCES BY" WHAT IS IT --
25 PERCENT OR SOMETHING -- WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE INFORMA-
TION WHICH CONFIRMS THAT REPORT; AND THEREFORE, I AM UNABLE
TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT SAY THAT.

Q: AND YOU ARE SATISFIED THAT YOUR INFORMATION IS CURRENT?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS. THIS WAS ADDRESSED
DIRECTLY. YES.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT OVER THE WEEKEND THAT A COUPLE OF
AMERICANS IN A RUBBER LIFE RAFT WERE ARRESTED IN ANGOLA
AND CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE. DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE ON
THAT?

A: IT IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE A COUPLE OF
AMERICANS. I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THIS. THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY AT KINSHASHA WAS ADVISED ON JULY 2ND BY A FIRM,
CONSTRUCTEURS INGA SHAGA, CIS, THAT THREE OF THEIR
EMPLOYEES INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN AND TWO ZAIRIANS WERE

ARRESTED BY ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 30TH WHEN THE RUBBER RAFT IN WHICH THEY WERE NAVIGATING THE ZAIRE RIVER LOST POWER AND DRIFTED INTO ANGOLAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE THREE WERE ENROUTE FROM MATADI TO BOMA, ZAIRE WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURED. THEIR ARREST WAS WITNESSED BY LOCAL POLICE, I.E. ZAIRIAN, WHO IN TURN ADVISED CIS. THE DEPARTMENT WAS THEN IN CONTACT WITH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANELS IN ORDER TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS FOR MR. HENSLEY. INCIDENTALLY, THE AMERICAN'S NAME IS LARRY HENSLEY, TO BRING ABOUT HIS EARLY RELEASE.

ON KNOWING OF HIS ARREST, THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE SENT A TEAM OF MILITARY OFFICERS FROM BOMA, ZAIRE, TO THE ANGOLAN BORDER TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE THREE
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MEN. ALTHOUGH THESE OFFICERS WERE NOT PERMITTED TO TALK WITH THE TREE PRISONERS, THEY DID REPORT SEEING THEM.

ON JULY 4TH, THE NEGOTIATING TEAM RETURNED AND REPORTED TO THEIR GOVERNMENT THAT THE ANGOLANS HAD DECIDED TO MOVE THE THREE MEN INTO LUANDA, ANGOLA'S CAPITAL. EARLIER, WE UNDERSTOOD THROUGH ZAIRIAN NEGOTIATORS THAT THE THREE WERE BEING CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE. RADIO BROADCASTS FROM LUANDA CONCERNING THE APPREHENSION OF THE MEN HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF THESE CHARGES. HOWEVER, ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PROVIDED US WITH THE SPECIFICS. MR. HENSLEY IS NOT MARRIED. HIS NEXT OF KIN IS HIS MOTHER, MRS. VIRGINIA HENSLEY, OF FLORIDA AND SHE HAS BEEN ADVISED OF HIS ARREST.

Q: ON THIS ANGOLA CASE, HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT BETWEEN AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THE ANGOLANS ON THIS CASE? HAS THERE BEEN ANY DIRECT CONTACT ?

A: WE HAVE, AS I SAY, BEEN IN CONTACT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. YOU KNOW THEY ARE LIMITED AND YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE PLACE.

Q: I CAN GUESS, BUT THROUGH THE INTERESTS -- WHO REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS THERE?

A: WE HAVE CONTACTS IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE.

Q: THE WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING PUBLISHED A STATEMENT FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE IN WHICH IT REFERS TO THE BASIC IMMORALITY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, " THAT IT IS QUITE WILLING TO SELL OUT MILLIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF EXPEDIENCY." I'M WONDERING IF YOU'VE HAD ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

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A: NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON GEORGIE ANN GEYER'S COLUMN, EDITORIAL.

Q: ALSO, SHE CONCLUDES THIS IN THE POST AND THE TIMES, THAT "PEOPLE LIKE ANDY YOUNG ARE SURROUNDED BY 1960'S BLACK POWER ACTIVISTS WHO FORESEE IN AFRICA WHAT THEY WERE DENIED IN THE UNITED STATES. DO YOU FEEL THIS IS IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING OR COMMENTARY OR WHAT?

A: I THINK THAT ONE OF THE NICE THINGS ABOUT THE FIRST AMENDMENT IT PERMITS ALMOST ANY KIND OF COMMENTARY WHATSOEVER, INFORMED OR UNINFORMED.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET A BRIEFING WITH GERARD SMITH ON THIS NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN SOUTH AFRICA? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON IT ?

A: NO. I THINK HE FELT THAT THE TALKS WERE POSITIVE. BEYOND THAT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO OFFER. VANCE

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